



Diocese of York Prayer Diary - December 2021

Thursday
23rd December.
Diocesan Office
The buzz of activity begins to return at the Diocesan Office building in York, but we thank God for our team who have continued to support so many aspects of parish life and work from their own homes during a second difficult year. We pray that the team, their families and households will enjoy a blessed and peaceful Christmas, and be renewed and encouraged for the many challenges next year.
Diocese of Ilesa. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

Friday
24th December.
Christmas Eve
Christmas Eve
Christ, come into our world of darkness. Light up our lives with your coming. Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth. Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world. And to share the hope of your birth that each Christmas brings. Amen.
(Sr Bridgetta Rooney for CAFOD)
Diocese of Ilesa - South West. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

Saturday
25th December.
Christmas Day
Christmas Day
Luke 2.19: But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. Thank you, Incarnate God, for the good news of Christmas. For the news that dispels fear of the future, news that disrupts the status quo, That brings hope despite despair, Amazement and wonder. For news that is truly full of awe, we give you thanks. May this Good News silence all other news today. Amen, and thanks be to God.
(Christian Aid)
Diocese of North East India. The (united) Church of North India.

Sunday
26th December.
Stephen, deacon, first martyr
Boxing Day
Gracious Father, who gave the first martyr Stephen grace to pray for those who took up stones against him: grant that in all our sufferings for the truth we may learn to love even our enemies and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt, looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us, Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America.

Monday
27th December.
John, Apostle and Evangelist
Prayer for the Nation
Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Diocese of Northern Indiana. The Episcopal Church.

Tuesday
28th December.
The Holy Innocents
Prayer for Children
Loving God, your Son told his disciples to become like little children. Lead us to work for the welfare and protection of all young people. May we respect their dignity, that they may flourish in life, following the example of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Diocese of Indianapolis. The Episcopal Church.

Wednesday
29th December.
Thomas Becket, archbishop, Martyr, 1170
Prayer for the Homeless and Displaced
God of compassion, your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus, whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross: we hold before you those who are homeless and cold especially in this bitter weather. Draw near and comfort them in spirit and bless those who work to provide them with shelter, food and friendship. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.
Diocese of Iowa. The Episcopal Church.

Thursday
30th December.
Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland - Church Urban Fund
Chief Officer: Kate Jeffels; Project Leaders: Julie McGee, The Revd Billy Barnes.
Together Middlesbrough & Cleveland: give thanks for our donors and volunteers, and the food, support, and community development work we coordinate through our churches, ecumenical partners, and community groups. Continue to pray for all those still struggling and vulnerable and impacted by Covid-19 in Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland.
Diocese of Iran. The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East.

Friday
31st December.
John Wycliff, reformer, 1384
New Year's Eve
God of all time, help us enter the New Year thoughtfully, speaking only after we have listened well. Creator of all life, help us enter the New Year reverently, for you have endowed every person and habitat with beauty and purpose. Lover of all souls, help us enter the New Year joyfully, willing to laugh and dream. In this New Year, may the grace of Christ bless all. Amen.
Diocese of Irele - Eseodo. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

Wednesday
1st December.
Charles de Foucauld, hermit, 1916
Prayer for the UK Parliament
The Speaker's Chaplain usually reads the prayers. The form of the main prayer is as follows: Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our Queen and her government, to Members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility, the guidance of your Spirit. May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals but laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all mankind; so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed. Amen.
Diocese of Iife East. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

Thursday
2nd December.
South Wold Deanery
Area Dean: The Revd Canon Caroline Pinchbeck; Lay Dean: Dave Millican.
We pray for our deanery, for healing of those in ministry who have been ill or undergoing treatment. We are thankful for our PTO clergy, readers, lay ministers and churchwardens who have stepped into help in our parishes. We give thanks for those who are chaplains at Pocklington School and HMP Full Sutton. We pray for wisdom and guidance as we discern the futures of our deanery.
Diocese of Ifo. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

Friday
3rd December.
Francis Xavier, missionary, 1552
St Peter and St Paul, Scrayingham; All Saints, Catton; St John the Baptist, Stamford Bridge
Clergy: The Revd Simon Pritchard.
Please pray that all our churches can fulfil the aspiration to be a church at the heart of our village community, seeking to reach out in love and support for all our neighbours.
Diocese of Igbomina. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

Saturday
4th December.
John of Damascus, monk, teacher of the faith, c. 749.
Nicholas Ferrar, deacon, founder of the little Gidding Community, 1637
St Giles, Burnby; St Martin, Hayton; St Ethelburga, Great Givendale; St Mary, Huggate; St Margaret, Millington; St James, Nunburnholme; All Saints, Pocklington; Pocklington CE Infant School; Warter CE Primary
Clergy: The Revd Dr Jake Belder, The Revd Bronnie Broadhurst; Retired Clergy: The Revd Shelagh Jones, The Revd Canon Rodney Nicholson, The Revd Canon Val Hewetson; Readers: Pam Dean, Annie Harrison, Barbara Myerscough, David Rumbelow, Brian Snelson; Churchwardens: Nigel Laws, Tina Morley, Ruth Braithwaite, Steve Chrispin, Sue Dale, Andrew Henworth, Chris Soukup, Michelle Stephens, Elizabeth Thackray, Lynne Thomas.
Pray for the many Christmas activities and services planned across our group of churches and the opportunities we will have to share the good news of Jesus again this year. We ask God to bless our new baptism preparation programme, as we seek to build deeper relationships with families, praying that the Spirit will be at work to bring these parents and children to faith and new life.
Diocese of Igbomina- West. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

Sunday
5th December.
2nd Sunday of Advent
Pocklington School
Chaplain: The Revd Canon Bill Merrington.
Pocklington School has just had its external appraisal. We have also recently adjusted our teaching days to five days per week. So, it has been a time of change. Pray for our new confirmation class, for assemblies used by other schools via YouTube, and for encouraged staff as we grapple with Covid challenges.
The Anglican Church of Burundi.

Monday
6th December.
Nicholas, bishop, c.326
Collect: Almighty Father, lover of souls, who chose your servant Nicholas to be a bishop in the Church, that he might give freely out of the treasures of your grace: make us mindful of the needs of others and, as we have received, so teach us also to give; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen .
Diocese of Ihiala. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

Tuesday
7th December.
Ambrose, bishop, teacher of the faith, 397
St Edith, Bishop Wilton; St Andrew, Bugthorpe; St Mary, Full Sutton; All Saints, Kirby Underdale; St Mary, Skirpenbeck; Bugthorpe CE Primary; Bishop Wilton CE Primary
Clergy: The Revd Linda Munt, The Revd Canon Mike Kavanagh; Churchwardens: Jan Danby, Susan Frost, Adam Findlay, Richard Smithson, Penny Beard, Verity Jarry, Pam Megginson, William Foster.
Give thanks for the relaunch of the benefice "Service for All" at Skirpenbeck; the growth and opportunities in the two Book of Common Prayer congregations at Bugthorpe and Kirby Underdale; and for the value placed on the broadcast service by new members of our "virtual congregation". Pray for guidance to develop the benefice evening service at Full Sutton and the benefice Meditation Group. Pray for the generous giving initiative in Bishop Wilton and a forthcoming day of prayer and reflection for the Benefice to develop a vision for the future given the challenges posed by Living Christ's Story. Celebrate the opportunities at our two church schools through weekly assemblies and celebrations in church, and give thanks for the dedication of the teaching staff.
Diocese of Ijebu. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

<p>Wednesday 8th December. Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Ember Day</p>	<p>St Botolph, Allerthorpe; St Catherine, Barmby Moor; St Martin, Fangfoss; St Michael, Thornton; St Martin, Yapham; Barmby Moor CE Primary; Fangfoss St Martin’s CE Primary Clergy: The Revd Jan Hardy, The Revd James Glaister, The Revd Canon Rodney Nicholson, The Revd Canon Bill Merrington; RPAs: Hazel McDonald, Martin Radcliffe, Elaine Stubbins; Churchwardens: Gordon Fallowfield, Mark Stageman, Tim O’Gram, Claire Triffitt. Please pray for our vicar, Jan, and that churchwardens may be appointed for Fangfoss and Yapham. Please give thanks for good cooperation with the two schools at Barmby Moor and Fangfoss and pray for the carol and Christmas services ahead. Please pray that Fangfoss may be successful in receiving grants for their kitchen/toilet project designed to provide a community hub, and for the congregation at Yapham who have problems with their building. Please pray for the arrangement of services at times when there is a shortage of clergy. Diocese of Ijebu - North. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).</p>
<p>Thursday 9th December.</p>	<p>Prayer for the Archbishop’s Council Please pray for the Council as the members make decisions about the worship, mission and life of the Diocese. May the Council and parishes seek to implement Living Christ’s Story and may we all rest in the grace and love of God. Diocese of Ijebu - South West. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).</p>
<p>Friday 10th December. Ember Day</p>	<p>All Hallows, Goodmanham; All Saints, Market Weighton; All Saints, Sancton; All Saints, Londesborough; All Saints, Shiptonthorpe; Mount Pleasant CE Junior School Clergy: The Revd Canon Caroline Pinchbeck. We give thanks and pray for discernment as we discern how we might live and minister together as a group of parishes. We pray for the churchwardens, the Parish Church Councils, and the ministry team as we seek to serve Christ and bear witness in our communities. The Diocese of Ijesa - North East. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).</p>
<p>Saturday 11th December. Ember Day</p>	<p>All Saints, Holme-on-Spalding-Moor; Bursea Chapel; St Peter, Harswell; St Everilda, Everingham; St Giles, Bielby; St Edmund, Seaton Ross Clergy: The Revd Canon Stephen Cope; Retired clergy: The Revd Val Hewetson, The Revd Canon Rodney Nicholson, The Revd Peter Nelson; Readers: Anne-Marie Breewood, Paul Dorrington; Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens: John Peel, Stephen Smith, Andrew Brade, Anne-Marie Breewood, Val Featherby, Anne Hazlewood, Diane Stead, Dave Raffaelli. Please pray for us as we seek to connect back into our communities, and clear the backlog of baptisms and weddings! Pray also that we may find a way to engage better with younger people. The Missionary Diocese of Ijesha - North. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).</p>
<p>Sunday 12th December. 3rd Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>St John the Baptist, Wilberfoss with Kexby; Wilberfoss CE Primary Clergy: The Revd Simon Pritchard, The Revd Maggy Ellison; Retired Clergy: The Revd Peter Langford; Reader: Peter Green; Reader in training: Steve Percival; Churchwardens: Rose Riley, Jo Stalker; Wilberfoss CE Primary School, Headteacher Kris Henderson. We give thanks to God for the communities we serve. Please pray for our ministry team as we pray to discern God’s will for this parish. Pray for our primary school and the opportunities for mission and fellowship together; and for the farming community and the difficulties they are facing at the present time. Give thanks to God for all the creative possibilities in this parish. The Anglican Church of Canada.</p>
<p>Monday 13th December. Lucy, martyr, 304. Samuel Johnson, moralist, 1784</p>	<p>Harthill Deanery Area Dean: The Revd Jacki Tonkin; Lay Dean: Martin Adams; Deanery Secretary Valerie Salter; DFA: Martin Salter; Deanery Treasurer: Alice Crawford-Ellin. We give thanks to God for a growing sense of unity despite the restrictions of recent months; and for good attendance at Synods held via Zoom. Please pray for those churches without Synod representatives to be able to appoint them ahead of the exciting challenges of Living Christ’s Story so that all views are heard. Diocese of Ijumu. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).</p>
<p>Tuesday 14th December. John of the Cross, poet, teacher of the faith, 1591</p>	<p>HMP Full Sutton Chaplains: The Revd Glen Hocken, The Revd Andy Robinson. Pray for prisoners and their relationship with God, that they would: Experience His love; Accept Christ as Saviour; Allow God to work in them and accomplish His purpose in their lives; Earnestly seek God and get involved with chapel services and other Christian programming offered within the prison. Amen. (From the <i>Prison Fellowship</i> website) Diocese of Ikara. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).</p>
<p>Wednesday 15th December.</p>	<p>St Martin, Burton Agnes; St John of Beverley, Harpham; St Martin, Lowthorpe; St Nicholas, Ruston Parva; Burton Agnes CE Primary Clergy: Vacant; Churchwarden: Mrs Christine Garland. Our mission is to provide an ever-present Christian spiritual focus for the community and offer acceptance, forgiveness and hope to all. Our churches and school have been at the heart of the community for many years—may we discover ways to reach out with the love of God today. Diocese of Ikeduru. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).</p>

<p>Thursday 16th December.</p>	<p>St Mary Cowlam; St Mary, Fimber; St Mary, Fridaythorpe; St Mary, Sledmere; St Mary, Thixendale; St Nicholas, Wetwang; Sledmere CE Primary; Wetwang CE Primary Clergy: The Revd Jacki Tonkin; Readers: John & Katharine Chapman, Martin Adams (Deanery Reader) Churchwardens: Dianne Atkin, Sandra Brown, Andrea Potts, Mark Lucas, Keith Clark, John Southwick, Sarah Frettingham, Pauline Foster, Charlotte Dixon, Maureen Calvert. We give thanks for the weekly Collective Worship online that links the Sledmere and Wetwang schools and for recent in-person Harvest Festivals in church. It is good to be together after so many months. Praise God for resilient people and creative sharing of God’s love in our communities in challenging times. Pray that we are ready for all the opportunities Living Christ’s Story brings us. Diocese of Ikka. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).</p>
<p>Friday 17th December. O Sapientia. Eglantyne Jebb, social reformer, founder of Save The Children, 1928</p>	<p>Prayer for the York Diocesan Leadership Team (YDLT) Isaiah 40.31: <i>But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.</i> We pray this verse for all in leadership positions—lay and ordained—and especially for our Archbishop, Bishops, Archdeacons and those in the Diocesan Office. Diocese of Ikwerre. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).</p>
<p>Saturday 18th December.</p>	<p>St Peter, Hutton Cranswick; St Leonard, Skerne; St Mary, Watton; St Margaret, Beswick; All Saints, Nafferton; St Mary, Wansford; Beswick and Watton CE Primary Clergy: The Revd Simon Elliott; Retired Clergy: The Revd Canon Ian Holdsworth; Churchwardens: Robin Freeman, Margaret Brennand, Nick Minns, Jo Blacker, Tony Pexton, John Duggleby, Chris Martinson, Brian Fairfield; Readers: Trish Barker, Gwyn Southall; RPA: Mike Searle; Headteacher: Liz Harros. Please pray for our six rural parishes as we seek to follow Jesus and live his way, each day. May we learn to work together, and in all of our diversity may we find unity. Please pray for spiritual and numerical growth in our congregations, and increased confidence in our mission, especially in the way we reach out to those in the 20s-40s age group, and also in relation to the many young people and children who live in our parishes. Please pray that we will have the wisdom to know how best to deploy our gifts to the extension of God’s Kingdom in the power of his Holy Spirit in our share of the Yorkshire Wolds. Diocese of Ikwo. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).</p>
<p>Sunday 19th December. 4th Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>St Andrew, Bainton; St Michael, Garton on the Wolds; All Saints, Kilnwick; St Mary, Kirkburn; St Andrew, Middleton on the Wolds; All Saints, North Dalton; Garton on the Wolds CE Primary; Middleton on the Wolds CE Primary Clergy: The Revd Jane Anderson. Please pray for our group of churches: that our life of worship and prayer might be daily renewed; that our love for one another and service in the wider community might be refreshed; and that our hope in Christ as his disciples be kindled and fan into flame. Amen. The Church of the Province of Central Africa.</p>
<p>Monday 20th December.</p>	<p>All Saints, Great Driffield; St Mary, Little Driffield; St Nicholas, Butterwick; St Peter, Langtoft; All Saints, Thwing; Driffield CE Infant School Clergy: The Revd Stuart Grant; Churchwardens: Tony Goforth, Martin Salter, Roger Gooch, Mike Wynn, Chris Burton, Jackie Burton, Judy Burdass, Tim Burdass, Rod Buckley; Trainee Readers: John Wordsworth, Sharon Wordsworth, Terri Chambers, Martin Salter; Trainee RPA: Valerie Salter. We give thanks for a new headteacher at Driffield Infant School and the growing links between our church and the school. We give thanks for four new trainee readers and pray for them as they begin their ministry. We pray for our five churches as we rebuild after the pandemic. Diocese of Ikwuano. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).</p>
<p>Tuesday 21st December.</p>	<p>Mustard Seed (Growing disciples in places where life is tough) Programme Leader: Heather Black We give thanks for all that is growing in people and places through the Mustard Seed programme. Please join us in the Mustard Seed prayer: Lord Jesus, you show us what life could be. Help us to plant your seeds of hope in places where life is tough, so that people can find your love and your way. We offer this small prayer like a mustard seed, for your kingdom to come among us. Amen. Diocese of Ilaje. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).</p>
<p>Wednesday 22nd December.</p>	<p>Multiply: Reaching 20s-40s Please pray for the full-time and part-time Multiply Ministers in 23 locations around the Diocese. We are gradually seeing new worshipping communities emerging after much relationship building. Like all parish ministry it’s a work of patience, prayer, team building and hanging onto hope. Diocese of Ile - Oluji. The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).</p>